

Message Text

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FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC FROM BANGKOK 12 FEB 74:

QUOTE UNCLAS BANGKOK 2343

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECAFE, ENRG

SUBJ: RED:ECAFE: PROPOSAL FOR REGIONAL ENERGY RESOURCES
CENTER

REF: BANGKOK 2215

1. DURING RECENT COMMITTEE OF INDUSTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES MEETING, ECAFE SECRETARIAT AGAIN PROPOSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL ENERGY RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT CENTER. IT WAS INCLUDED IN THE WORK PROGRAM FOR 1973/74 AND IT IS INCLUDED IN THE WORK PROGRAM FOR 1974/75 WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION UNDER PROJECT NO. IC3: 4-2(III).

2. THE INR COMMITTEE WAS UNABLE TO EXPRESS ITS VIEWS ON THIS PROPOSAL BECAUSE THE DOCUMENT E/CN.11/I&NR/L.163 WAS PRESENTED ON OPENING DAY. THE COMMITTEE FELT THAT THE UPCOMING INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON THE IMPACT OF THE CURRENT ENERGY CRISIS ON THE ECONOMY OF THE ECAFE REGION WOULD BE BETTER ABLE TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER AND GIVE ITS VIEWS.

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3. THE FUNCTIONS (14) OF THE CENTER HAVE BEEN LISTED IN

ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES FOR ENERGY RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ADOPTED BY ECOSOC COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AT SECOND SESSION IN NAIROBI IN 1972 (E/5097, PP.8-9). THE ECAFE SECRETARIAT PROPOSES THAT CENTER BE MANAGED BY A DIRECTOR APPOINTED BY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY. HE WOULD SUBMIT HIS ANNUAL REPORT ON MANAGEMENT TO AN ADVISORY BOARD. FUNDS FOR THE CENTER WOULD BE SOLICITED FROM DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS WELL AS IBRD, ADB AND UNDP. "ADDITIONAL FUNDS MAY BE AVAILABLE FROM OIL-EXPORTING COUNTRIES DESIROUS OF FURTHERING THE PROGRESS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES." THE STAFFING TARGET FOR THE CENTER WOULD BE 20 PROFESSIONAL POSTS TO BE FILLED IN TWO YEARS TIME AND 10 GENERAL SERVICES POSTS.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE ECAFE TENDENCY IN PROBLEM SOLVING: ESTABLISH A CENTER. HOWEVER, ECAFE HAS JUST ESTABLISHED A MINERAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT CENTER WHICH COULD BE ENLARGED TO COVER ENERGY RESOURCES. WE EXPECT SEVERAL COUNTRIES INCLUDING JAPAN WILL OPPOSE ESTABLISHMENT OF ENERGY CENTER.

5. RECOMMENDATION: USDEL TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL ENERGY MEETING SHOULD NOT OPPOSE OUTRIGHT ESTABLISHMENT OF ENERGY CENTER BUT SHOULD SUGGEST FURTHER STUDY OF NEED FOR SUCH CENTER.
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